

Message Text

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FOR HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S ASIA SOCIETY SPEECH

REF: STATE 144682

1. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT SPEECH FOR THE SECRETARY. WITH DUE APOLOGIES FOR NOT PROVIDING SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, I HAVE SOME SGENERAL COMMENTS AS WELL AS MORE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO KOREA SECTION AS FOLLOWS.

2. GENERAL COMMENTS: I WOULD GIVE EVEN GREATER EMPHASIS TO POINTS MADE IN INTRODUCTORY SECTION ON OPPORTUNITIES NOW AFFORDED BY ESSENTIALLY PEACEFUL CONDITIONS IN ASIA. IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO POINT OUT THAT AS A REGION ASIA HAS MADE GREATEST PROGRESS IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD IN THE TRANSITION TO MODERN DEVELOPED SOCIETY AS WE KNOW IT IN THE WEST. ASIA IS A DYNAMIC REGION OF CONSTANT GROWTH AND, INDEED, PROVIDES MODELS FOR OTHER DEVELOPING SOCIETIES. THE TRANSITION IS COMPLETE IN THE CASE OF JAPAN AND FAR ADVANCED IN THE CASE OF COUNTRIES LIKE SINGAPORE AND KOREA. DESPITE SIGNIFICANT GAPS AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN ASIA, ALL ARE ON THE MARCH AND IT IS THE GOAL OF U.S. POLICY TO ASSIST AND

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ACCELERATE THIS TRANSITION WHICH WILL BRING SIGNIFICANT AND CONSTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

3. CONSISTENT WITH THE ABOVE THEME, I WOULD SUGGEST LESS EMPHASIS ON PURE ECONOMIC GROWTH, WHICH SOUNDS TOO MATERIALISTIC, AND MORE EMPHASIS UPON BRINGING TO THE AVERAGE ASIAN THE MANY

ADVANTAGES OF MODERN CIVILIZATION WITHOUT DESTROYING ANCIENT AND ADMIRER CULTURAL HERITAGES AND VALUE SYSTEMS. MORE SPECIFICALLY I THINK BOTH THE SECTIONS ON JAPAN AND ASEAN ARE TOO FOCUSED ON PURE ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WHOSE BENEFITS THE ASIANS SEEK BUT WHOSE RHETORIC THEY WOULD PREFER TO DOWNPLAY.

4. WITH RESPECT TO SECTION ON KOREA, FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IS EFFORT TO PLACE OUR RELATIONSHIP IN SOMEWHAT BROADER PERSPECTIVE WITHOUT CHANGING SUBSTANCE:

"IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE COUNTRIES SUCCESSFULLY MAKING THE TRANSITION TO MODERN DEVELOPED SOCIETY IS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS SEIZED UPON THE OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BOTH BY THE ABSENCE OF HOSTILITIES SINCE 1953 AND BY THE SIGNIFICANT SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. TO BECOME INCREASINGLY SELF-RELIANT AND SELF SUFFICIENT. DESPITE THE COSTS OF MAINTAINING A MAJOR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH CONTRIBUTES IMPORTANTLY TO DETERRING AGGRESSION, ITS INDUSTRIALIZATION HAS MOVED STEADILY FORWARD ITS AGRICULTURE ALMOST REVOLUTIONIZED AND ITS TRADE GROWN PHENOMENALLY EVEN DURING A PERIOD OF WORLDWIDE RECESSION AND MULTIPLE INCREASES IN ENERGY COSTS. THE LIFE OF ITS PEOPLE HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST DECADE.

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5. " WAR WOULD REVERSE THESE GAINS. FURTHERMORE, IN THIS STRATEGICALLY PLACED TERRITORY, BORDERING ON LAND WITH CHINA AND THE USSR, AND SEPARATED FROM JAPAN BY NARROW SEAS, WAR WOULD ALSO RISK SETTING OFF A WIDER CONFLAGRATION.

6. "LET THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG FRIEND OR POTENTIAL FOE ALIKE: THE U.S. REMAINS DETERMINED TO DETER A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES IN KOREA. OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN IT ARE FIRM. THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE AND FLOW DIRECTLY FROM OUR VITAL INTEREST IN THE INDEPENDENCE AND CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

7. "SOME HAVE RECENTLY SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS WILL WEAKEN SOUTH KOREA AND INCREASE THE THREAT OF WAR. CONSIDERING THE HISTORY OF THE PENINSULA, WE CAN UNDERSTAND THESE FEARS. BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT, AS THE PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL TAKES PLACE, ALL WILL RECOGNIZE THAT THESE FEARS ARE UNWARRANTED. HERE IS WHY -- OUR GROUND TROOPS CONSTITUTE ONLY ABOUT FIVE PER CENT OF THE TOTAL GROUND TROOPS COMMITTED TO THE DEFENSE OF SOUTH KOREA; -- THE GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL

OF THESE TROOPS OVER FOUR TO FIVE YEARS WILL BE OFFSET
BY THE GROWING STRENGTH AND SELF CONFIDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF KOREA ARMED FORCES AND BY THE INCREASING STRENGTH OF
THEIR ECONOMIC UNDERPINNING: -- OUR AIR, NAVAL AND LOGISTIC
SUPPORT WILL REMAIN -- WE WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST, CONSULT AND
WORK CLOSELY WITH THE KOREANS TO HELP THEM INCREASE FURTHER
THEIR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

8. " WE RE CONVINCED THEREFORE THAT BY THE TIME THE GROUND
FORCE WITHDRAWAL IS COMPLETED, THE FOLLY OF ARMED
AGGRESSION WILL BECOME SELF-EVIDENT TO NORTH KOREA.

9. "THE UNITED STATES SHARES SOUTH KOREA'S STRONG DESIRE
TO ESTABLISH A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR MAINTAINING PEACE AND
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STABILITY ON THE PENINSULA.
-- WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE OUR MUTUAL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS
WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND TO SUPPORT THE ENTRY OF NORTH
AND SOUTH KOREA INTO THE UNITED NATIONS WITHOUT PREFUDICE
TO ULTIMATE REUNIFICATION.
-- WHILE ADHERING TO THE PRESENT ARMISTICE REGIME, WE HAAVE
PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS TO REPLACE THE EXISTING ARMISTICE
WITH MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENTS.
-- WE HAVE OFFERED TO MEET FOR THIS PURPOSE WITH SOUTH AND
NORTH KOREA AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. WE WILL
ENTER ANY NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE FUTURE OF THE PENINSULA
ONLY IN FULL CONCERT WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA."
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